(a) whether it is a fact that the backlog of appeals pending before the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal has been increasing;

(b) if so, the position as on 31 March, 2000.

(c) the steps taken to clear the backlog in 2000-2001;

(d) whether Government have taken any step to reduce the backlog of appeals pending before ITA Tribunal; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir. The pendency is now going down 2,62,652. cases were pending as on 1.4.2000 as against the pendency of 3,00,59? cases as on 1.4.1999. The pendency has come down further to 2,46,782 as on 1.2.2001. Thus the pendency has come down by 53,815 cases during the above period.

(b) the pendency as on 31.3.2000 was 2,62,652 cases.

(c) to (e) In order to reduce the pendency of appeals, the Government has sanctioned 15, additional Benches, out of which 13 benches have been made functional.

In addition, Single Member Case (SMC) powers have been conferred on all eligible members to enable them to dispose of cases where the assessed income is up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

Amendment to the Constitution

440. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring forward an amendment to the Constitution to provide for fixed tenure of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas to ensure good governance in the country; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Cases of Land Acquisition and Compensation

441. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the woes of farmers whose compensation for land acquisition is delayed owing to various reasons including legal wrangles;

(b) whether Government would evolve an early and time bound machinery/ adjudication by the court regarding cases of land acquisition and compensation in lieu of that;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN J AITLEY): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Filling of annual account by Reliance Petroleum Limited

442. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reliance Petroleum Ltd. has filed its annual accounts for the year ended 31 st March, 1995 with the Registrar of Companies pursuant to the requirements of the Companies Act, 1956; and

(b) if so, on which date?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN J AITLEY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Action on Reports submitted by Law Commission

† 443. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of reports submitted so far by the Law Commission;

(b) whether Government have implemented all the recommendations incorporated in these reports;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the reports pending for implementation alongwith the names of the Ministries where the reports are pending and;

† Ofiginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.